



Training wings learn the ropes aboard Abe



T-45 Goshawks assigned to Carrier Training Wing (CTW) 2 operate from the flight deck of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) during their first day of initial carrier qualifications.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 (SW) JAMES R. EVANS

Penny Press Staff

This week, for the first time since 2004, USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) flight deck served as a training ground for student pilots flying the Navy's advanced jet training aircraft, the T-45 Goshawk.

Student pilots assigned to Carrier Training Wing (CTW) 1 Training Squadrons (VT) 7 and 9, based in Meridian, Miss., and CTW 2 squadrons VT-21 and VT-22, based in Kingsville, Texas, flew aboard Wednesday for four days of initial carrier qualifications. For these new pilots, the arrested landings and catapult launches they completed aboard Lincoln are the culmination of many months of intense flight training.

"This is the first jet they've flown and it's their first time on a carrier," said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Schadt, Chief of Naval Air Training's (CNATRA) senior Landing Signal Officer (LSO). "They've spent the last 10 months learning to fly the T-34s (a propeller driven trainer) for up to 10 months. This is one of the last things they'll have to do before they go to a Fleet Replace-

ment Squadron (FRS) and learn to fly their assigned aircraft."

After the training wing's arrival and early qualification flights Thursday, students gathered in Lincoln's ready room four to critique their landings with LSOs like Schadt. Many were still visibly excited from their first "traps" and conversations were animated as student pilots reenacted their final seconds before hitting the deck.

"It's a totally surreal experience," said 1st Lt. David Fickle, a prior-enlisted Marine assigned to "Eagles" of VT-7, who completed his first arrested landing aboard Lincoln Thursday. "I had seen all the videos and documentaries on the military channel, but when you actually get here, it's not like anything you perceived. Coming in, everything on the deck – the planes, the people – looks so much smaller, and then you definitely know it when you catch the wire. It's a huge adrenaline rush."

Fickle said that despite all the practice and instruction students receive flying carrier landing patterns and approaches at their home fields, nothing can fully prepare a pilot for task of catching a wire on the comparatively tiny deck of a carrier while it's in motion. In the ultra-competitive environment of Naval aviation, students who had distinguished themselves flying over land find themselves quite

Local News

Abe's crew welcomes new CSO

By MC3 RONALD DALLATORRE
Penny Press Staff

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) department heads welcomed a new member to the wardroom Nov. 24. Cmdr. James (Jim) Ballinger, originally from Pittsburgh, took over as the ship's Combat Systems Officer.

"I'm excited to be here," said Ballinger. "The whole time I was coming here, I heard nothing but good things about this command. The ship has a very good reputation throughout the fleet. So far everything has been great; I can't imagine a better assignment."

Ballinger's last assignment was as the Assistant Deputy Program Manager for the Tomahawk Command and Control System (TC2S) at NAS Patuxent River, Md. He received his commission through the Limited Duty Officer (LDO) program after serving as an Electronics Technician. He enlisted in the Navy in April 1977.

Ballinger said he couldn't have come to Lincoln at a better time. During the upcoming Planned Incremental Availability (PIA), Lincoln will be the first carrier to have the Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services (CANES) Early Adopter (EA) network installed.

"EA will replace our old LAN [Local Area Network]," he said. "The heart of this new LAN will be comprised of virtualized servers, saving space and making maintenance easier. The premise of CANES is that one program manager (SPAWAR) provides the hardware architecture (servers,



Photo by MC3 Ronald Dallatorre

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) welcomed Cmdr. James Ballinger Nov. 24 when he took over the position of Abe's Combat Systems Officer

switches and routers) and a common operating environment for software applications to run. Program managers will no longer have to bring PCs and servers for their applications to run on, all they have to do is provide software that runs on the virtual servers. 'Early Adopters' refers to the first software applications that will run in a virtual server; for Lincoln, there are 19."

Ballinger said installing this new LAN will be no easy task,

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Sailors encouraged to save now for new NWUs

By MC3 SEAN GALLAGHER
Penny Press Staff



Fiscal Year 2009 has begun and with it, the promise of the new working uniforms is just around the corner.

As early as October 2007, plans to begin production of

the new Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) were already in the making.

Originally, the battle dress style uniform was scheduled to make its debut in October 2008. Complications, further testing and redesign effectively pushed back the rollout date.

With the original roll out plans, Sailors were given an allotment to compensate for the cost of an entire new set of NWUs. This was a rather sizable uniform allotment that was approximately \$600 and

up, being larger than the normal allotment given annually.

"Junior enlisted receive their uniform allowance on the anniversary of their enlistment, where as Chiefs receive it on the anniversary of the day they became Chiefs," said USS Abraham Lincoln's Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Eric Schmidt.

Because of the premature presentation

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but he has the confidence in his crew to get it done.

"We're going to have a lot of work coming up, trying to keep the existing network up and having to move the old stuff out while putting the new in," he said. "My goal is to provide seamless network support during the entire PIA, complete the installation on time, and take care of my troops."

After PIA is completed, the new installation will go through Developmental and Operational Testing (DT/OT) by Commander, Operational Test and Evaluation Force (COMOPTE-

VFOR). The testing by COMOPTEVFOR provides a formal impartial evaluation for CNO that the system is ready for full production and installation throughout the rest of the fleet. Ballinger said the ship will benefit greatly from this installation. The existing servers are a decade old-Lincoln needs this refresh.

Ballinger said he looks forward to the rest of his tour on Lincoln.

"I like it here," he said. "I know I'm working with a good group. My goal is to make sure we're trained and prepared for our next deployment."

NWUs

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of the allotment, many Sailors have found that they have already spent the money that was meant for the NWUs on other things, perhaps without realizing it.

"The good news is if you have already squandered that money, you will have about a year to make it up," said Schmidt. "We don't want Sailors to drop dead today trying to gather everything at once; throw-

ing away uniforms that are still serviceable for some time."

Sailors in the Northwest will see the NWU finally make its way into the Navy Exchange Uniform Center in January 2010. All previous working uniforms will be authorized until December 2010, at which point the NWU will be in full circulation as the official replacement.

According to the rollout guideline provided by the Chief of Naval Opera-

tions, Fiscal year 2008 and 2009 clothing replacement allowances have been adjusted to facilitate the purchasing of four sets of NWU shirts and trousers by December 2010.

Personnel are urged to begin saving for the required uniforms. For more information regarding uniforms and the policies that govern them, Sailors may visit the uniform matters website at www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms.

Protect your finances during the holidays

By MC3 KIRK PUTNAM
Penny Press Staff

With travel expenses, gift purchases and the assortment of necessities that come with the holiday season, special attention must be paid to the additional strain this time of year can put on finances.

"The typical American household is \$15,000 in debt. That's revolving debt. At 20 percent a month, guess how much interest alone that is?" asked Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) (AS/AW) James Dignan, Command Financial Specialist (CFS) for USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). "At the minimum payments, you're looking at around 38 to 40 years before you have that \$15,000 paid off."

Dignan encourages Sailors to reduce impulse buying and use their credit wisely.

"Take a moment to think 'can I really afford this and is this something I can live without?'" said Dignan. "And nobody says you have to buy presents right before Christmas. Shop ahead so it's not a blow your finances."

Many resources are available for Sailors to save money before and during the holidays, but it's the Sailors who are ultimately responsible for taking advantage of these benefits.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Monica Brown, Assistant Command Financial Specialist for Lincoln, said some financial institutions, such as Navy Federal Credit Union, have specialized

accounts designed for the holidays where a specific amount is saved each month and set aside for holiday purchases. "That way you're not offsetting bills or offsetting the things you are used to in your spending."

Dignan said another resource is the Navy Exchange (NEX).

"Take a competitor's ad and they can price match. That's a benefit of the NEX since it's tax free."

Dignan and Brown also suggest Sailors rely less on credit cards and more on physical cash for the holidays to help reduce impulse buying.

"Seek out the better deals and don't spend it if you don't have it," said Brown. "A lot of Sailors, mostly junior Sailors say 'I'll get paid in two weeks. That money will be there.' That's what a lot of Sailors think. You need to spend within your means and plan ahead. Use cash, not plastic and don't buy stuff just to buy stuff."

Dignan said credit cards can still play a major role as a credit building tool as long as they are used thoughtfully and responsibly.

"There is a way to use credit wisely. With good credit, you can get special deals from credit card companies, but only use those as credit builders," said Dignan. "Take advantage of introductory offers but make sure you have all the funds first. A strong credit score will lower your interest rates on mortgages or vehicle loans."

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A student pilot from Carrier Training Wing (CTW) 1 attempts to catch one of Lincoln's arresting gear wires.



A T-45 Goshawk climbs from a touch-and-go as another is readied for launch on Lincoln's No. 2 catapult. Lincoln's flight deck stayed busy as student pilots worked to make the 10 traps and four touch-and-go's needed for their initial carrier qualification.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Leatrice Koenig, of Belen, N.M., spots a T-45 on one of Lincoln's bow catapults.



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TRAINERS

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literally in the same boat with everyone else.

"You develop a certain pride in competition, and I was in the upper echelon flying 'the ball' at the field," said Fickle. "But for me and a lot of others, this was a big punch in the guts. Today I was boltering like crazy, and I don't know if it was from the lens being a lot farther in front of me or seeing all the people and planes parked out there, but it was a very humbling experience."

Despite the sweat-drenched, white-knuckle landings, Shadt and Fickle both described launching from a steam-powered catapult for the first time as a more memorable experience.

"Most of the students are so focused flying the approach and getting their numbers right that they barely remember the landings, but for the launch they're just kind of along for the ride," said Schadt.

"If you've ever been to Magic Mountain at Six Flags in California, they have a Superman ride there," said Fickle. "It's a lot like the Superman ride."

The T-45 Goshawk is the U.S. Navy's version of the British Aerospace Hawk. Using the same airframe, it incorporates



British Royal Navy student exchange pilot Lt. Stephen Collins, assigned to Carrier Training Wing (CTW) 1, waits to taxi for launch in a T-45 Goshawk on Lincoln's flight deck. Collins and four Indian Navy pilots are completing initial carrier qualifications alongside their American counterparts in CTW's 1 and 2.

aspects of the F/A-18's avionics suite and the ability to land on an aircraft carrier to better prepare pilots to fly the Navy's premier fighter aircraft. One pilot who trained aboard Lincoln has experience in both the Hawk and the Goshawk.

Lt. Stephen Collins is an exchange pilot who has flown the Hawk for the British

Royal Navy and is now training in the Goshawk with the "Tigers" of VT-9. Collins and four student pilots from India flew aboard Lincoln to train, as they have for

the entire curriculum, alongside their U.S. counterparts. His goal is to qualify to the same standard as U.S. pilots so that he can fly U.S. F/A-18E/F Super Hornets as part of his exchange program.

"The U.S. and the Royal Navy have worked together very closely on the Joint Strike Fighter program," said Collins. "The ultimate aim is for us to get some experience flying a jet with very similar capabilities to that one. It's a good trade, the U.S. gets a pilot out of it and the Royal Navy gets the experience."

While student pilots of Carrier Training Wings 1 and 2 worked to overcome their inexperience, for Lincoln's flight deck and air traffic control personnel, the challenge was in putting their own experience to work and avoiding complacency.

"For most of the people up there right now, having just completed a 7-month deployment, it's almost business as usual," said Lt. Cory Pope, a catapult and arresting gear officer and Lincoln's V-5 division officer. "We just have to be a little extra cautious and remember that these folks have never done this before. We want to keep them safe too."



Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (Handling) (AW) Jesse L. Williams of Philadelphia, Pa., directs a T-45 Goshawk on Lincoln's flight deck after a successful recovery.





From the Fleet

West assumes duties as Navy's 12th MCPON

By MCCS (SW/AW) **BILL HOULIHAN**
MCPON Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West took the helm of the enlisted force as the Navy's 12th MCPON, receiving the ceremonial cutlass from MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa, Jr., in a change-of-command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard Dec. 12.

The ceremony marked the end of a 29-year career for Campa, who had served as MCPON since July 10, 2006. During his time as MCPON, Campa emphasized a return to "deckplate leadership" for the Navy's chief petty officer community and stressed the importance of infusing the fleet with a sense of the Navy's heritage, traditions and rich history.

"With a singular drive, he infused in our chief petty officers' mess a renewed spirit of heritage, service and high standards," said Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughhead, who served as the ceremony's guest speaker. "He formed the MCPON's Leadership Mess to coalesce fleetwide chiefs around those renewed standards and expectations. He created and enforced the Chief Petty Officer Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles."

Campa wasted little time beginning a process he referred to as "re-setting the Navy's Chief's Mess." He introduced the Chiefs' Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles (MVGP) just two months after taking office then used that document as a foundation for a series of CPO Mess changes and recommendations to senior Navy leadership.

During the 30-month period he was in office, Campa deliberately introduced the MVGP to the Navy and inserted the language into Chief Petty Officer Selection Board precepts, as well as the recently developed new CPO evaluation.

He was instrumental in the decision to rescind a policy requiring an associate degree for selection to senior chief and also successfully pushed for opening up advancement exams to Sailors serving in theaters such as Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

Campa discussed none of his personal accomplishments during his retirement remarks, though, instead focusing on the gratitude he felt at the opportunities the Navy has provided him and the memories he'll take with him of his years as a United States Sailor.



Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalobos

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa, Jr., left, gives the cutlass to Master Chief Rick D. West during the Passing of the Cutlass ceremony at the Sail Loft at the Washington Navy Yard. West is replacing Campa as the 12th MCPON.

"In the years to come I can guarantee you that the Sailor in me will never fade," said Campa. "I'll miss everything about our great Navy. I'll miss the Sailors with their energy, their swagger and their courage to speak their minds. I'll miss the culture and the attitude that is ours and ours alone, and I'll miss the sea more than I care to admit."

West, joined the Navy in 1981 and most recently served as Fleet master Chief for Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk. He had previously served as Pacific Fleet Master Chief. In his remarks, he discussed the honor associated with leading an entire enlisted force.

"You all exemplify what it is to be a United States Sailor," said West. "Honor, courage and commitment."

"You are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; are on I-As in Cuba, Africa and Bahrain and are forward deployed on ships and other duty stations throughout the world. I will honor your commitment by upholding the ideal of service that my predecessors have established."

Campa and West, in a tribute to CPO heritage, accepted the ceremonial cutlass from Ima Black, widow of the Navy's first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON Del Black. Campa made Mrs. Black an honorary master chief in 2007.

Weekly Wrap Up

FRSCQ becomes learning experience for Abe

By MC3 KAT CORONA
Penny Press Staff

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) began its second week of carrier qualifications for a number of training squadrons under the sunny, clear skies off the coast of southern California.

For the crews of Abe and the embarked training squadrons this at-sea period for Fleet Replacement Squadron Carrier Qualifications has been an educational experience.

Apart from the hours spent ensuring the safety of the pilots learning the ropes on board a carrier, or the evenings spent in general quarters, the crews learned a little bit about the Navy's new paternity leave policy for new fathers.

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act released Oct. 14, married Sailors on active duty can now take up to 10 days of non-chargeable leave to assist their wives with the new baby, said Lincoln's Administration Department's Leading Chief Petty Officer Senior Chief Yeoman (SW/AW) Kevin Martin.

"Although Sailors are entitled to 10 days for up to a year after the baby is born to take care of the mother and newborn baby, they can receive only those 10 days," Martin said. "They aren't given 10 days per child, like if they had twins or triplets

or anything like that."

Abe Sailors will also learn about holiday safety on SITE TV Dec. 14-15 when the ship begins its holiday safety stand down.

To help maintain Navy standards of conduct during the upcoming holiday leave period, Abe's crews will come together with their divisions to watch a safety stand down video.

"By taking care of yourself, by making sure that you stay safe during the holiday season, you come back to the ship up and ready to go to work, which plays into the whole taking care of your ship. You're ready to do your job," said Cmdr. Dominic Gaudin, Lincoln's Safety Officer.

Abe Sailors weren't the only people learning anything this underway period.

Abe hosted a number of distinguished visitors who were given the opportunity to experience carrier life on

their overnight stay on board Lincoln. Guests from Torrance, Calif., and Ft. Worth, Texas, were given in depth tours of the ship from the flight deck to engineering spaces in order to get a grasp on what keeps this "city at sea" functioning.

With only a few days left of this underway, Abe and the crews of the embarked squadrons will round up their time with more maintenance, drills and an exciting night of Big Bucks Bingo hosted by Abe's Morale Welfare and Recreation Division before heading home just in time for the holidays.



Photo by MC2 James R. Evans
As a part of the National Defense Authorization Act, Sailors on active duty will now be able to take 10 days of non-chargeable leave following the birth of their child to assist their wives and their newborns.

NEED A RIDE?
Take the MWR Van!



The MWR Van is a free shuttle service taking Sailors around the Everett area and Smokey Point.
For the van schedule, call MWR at 7028.

Everett Commons Halo Tournament

Registration ends 12-17
Contact MWR at 7028

Bournes Breakdown

Another fine Bowl Championship series mess

BY MC2 JAMES BOURNES
Penny Press Staff

The 2008 college football regular season is over. Like every year it had its surprises, that's your cue to cheer Alabama and Texas Tech fans, and its disappointments, that's your cue to cry Michigan and Clemson fans. There was some tremendous quarterbacking in college football this year, and we may get to see the top three again next year, Texas' Colt McCoy, Oklahoma's Sam Bradford and last year's Heisman trophy winner Florida's Tim Tebow.

Now before I get to breaking down the bowl games this year there's another trend is happening in college football and that's the Bowl Championship Series, or BCS, continually getting things wrong year in and year out. This is a flawed system for choosing who receives the big payday at the end of the bowl season. This year, of the five BCS games, where the participants earn a significantly greater amount of money for playing, three out of five are predetermined. The BCS title game pits number one versus number two, Florida and Oklahoma. I'm fine with that. There are arguments for other teams, but both teams played well this year and at the end of the season. The Rose Bowl has the traditional Pacific Athletic Conference champion against the Big Ten champion, Southern Cal versus Penn State. Nothing can be done about that and both teams certainly deserve to be there. The Orange Bowl has Cincinnati, the champion of the Big East conference, against Virginia Tech, the champion from the Atlantic Coast Conference. These two conferences were fairly weak this year and this should make for a good match up. I'm fine with this one too. The remaining two games, the Fiesta Bowl and the Sugar Bowl, the BCS

only got half right. Let's look at what they got right. The Sugar Bowl has Alabama, a team that was ranked number one for most of the season and didn't lose until the Southeastern Conference Championship game, against Utah and mid-major school that is one of two schools still unbeaten this year. Utah doesn't play the caliber of competition the BCS schools do, but it's very hard to go undefeated and this is the BCS's way of showing love to the mid-majors every year and giving them a token invite.

Now here's where the BCS gets it wrong. Here's where they show us that it's not what the teams do throughout the year, but how much money they can make off of television ratings. The Fiesta Bowl, has Texas, the one team that beat Oklahoma this year, and Ohio State, a two loss team ranked tenth in the polls. Texas I can understand, they've played well throughout the year and their only loss is to Texas Tech on a last second play in Lubbock. The problem is with the Buckeyes receiving another BCS invitation. This team has lost two games, but with Texas Tech being ranked higher in the polls and only having one loss in a tough Big 12 conference, but somehow Ohio State is more deserving than the Red Raiders. A quick shuffle of the BCS games would allow for a fair line up. Simply move Utah to the Fiesta Bowl along with Texas Tech, and then have Alabama versus Texas. However, since Ohio State has a larger fan base compared to Texas Tech, and will undoubtedly earn higher television ratings; we have an undeserving team in the BCS and a higher ranked team on their way to the Cotton Bowl.

Alright that was the rant about how the BCS messed things up once again this year. Let's breakdown this year's bowl matchups.

| BOWL | TEAMS | DATE | PREDICTED WINNER | PLAYERS TO WATCH |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| EagleBank | Navy vs. Wake Forest | December 20 th , 2008 | Wake Forest | Navy Running Back Shan White, WFU Wide Receiver D.J. Boldin |
| New Mexico | Fresno State vs. Colorado State | December 20 th , 2008 | Fresno State | FSU Tight End Bear Pascoe, CSU Tight End Kory Sperry |
| St. Petersburg | South Florida vs. Memphis | December 20 th , 2008 | South Florida | USF Quarterback Matt Grothe, Memphis Running Back Curtis Steele |
| Las Vegas | Brigham Young vs. Arizona | December 20 th , 2008 | Arizona | BYU Quarterback Max Hall, Arizona Running Back Nkr Grigsby |
| New Orleans | Troy vs. Southern Miss | December 21 st , 2008 | Troy | Troy Running Back DuJuan Harris, SMU Running Back Damon Fletcher |
| Poinsettia | Boise State vs. Texas Christian | December 22 nd , 2008 | Texas Christian | BSU Quarterback Kellen Moore, TCU Quarterback Andy Dalton |
| Hawai'i | Hawai'i vs. Notre Dame | December 24 th , 2008 | Hawai'i | Hawai'i Wide Receiver Greg Salas, ND Quarterback Jimmy Clausen |
| Motor City | Central Michigan vs. Florida Atlantic | December 26 th , 2008 | Central Michigan | CMU Quarterback Dan LeFevour, FAU Quarterback Rusty Smith |
| Meineke Car Care | West Virginia vs. North Carolina | December 27 th , 2008 | West Virginia | WVU Quarterback Pat White, UNC Wide Receiver Hakeem Nicks |
| Champs Sports | Florida State vs. Wisconsin | December 27 th , 2008 | Florida State | FSU Running Back Antone Smith, Wisconsin Wide Receiver David Gilreath |
| Emerald | Cal vs. Miami | December 27 th , 2008 | Miami | Cal Quarterback Nate Longshore, Miami Quarterback Robert Marve |
| Independence | Louisiana Tech vs. Northern Illinois | December 28 th , 2008 | Northern Illinois | LaTech Running Back Daniel Porter, NIU Linebacker Alex Kube |
| PapaJohns.com | Rutgers vs. North Carolina State | December 29 th , 2008 | Rutgers | Rutgers Quarterback Mike Teel, NCSU Quarterback Russell Wilson |
| Alamo | Northwestern vs. Missouri | December 29 th , 2008 | Missouri | NU Running Back Tyrell Sutton, Mizzou Quarterback Chase Daniel |
| Humanitarian | Nevada vs. Maryland | December 30 th , 2008 | Maryland | Nevada Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Maryland Quarterback Chris Turner |
| Texas | Rice vs. Western Michigan | December 30 th , 2008 | Rice | Rice Quarterback Chase Clement, WMU Quarterback Tim Hiller |
| Holiday | Oklahoma State vs. Oregon | December 30 th , 2008 | Oklahoma State | OSU Wide Receiver Dez Bryant, Oregon Running Back Jeremiah Johnson |
| Armed Forces | Air Force vs. Houston | December 31 st , 2008 | Houston | AF Strong Safety Chris Thomas, Houston Quarterback Case Keenum |
| Sun | Pitt vs. Oregon State | December 31 st , 2008 | Oregon State | Pitt Running Back LeSean McCoy, OSU Running Back Jacquizz Rodgers |
| Music City | Boston College vs. Vanderbilt | December 31 st , 2008 | Boston College | BC Linebacker Mark Herzlich, Vandy Cornerback D.J. Moore |
| Insight | Kansas vs. Minnesota | December 31 st , 2008 | Kansas | KU Quarterback Todd Reesing, Minnesota Wide Receiver Eric Decker |
| Check-Fil-A | Georgia Tech vs. Louisiana State University | December 31 st , 2008 | Georgia Tech | GT Running Back Jonathan Dwyer, LSU Wide Receiver Brandon LaFell |
| Outback | Iowa vs. South Carolina | January 1 st , 2009 | South Carolina | Iowa Running Back Shonn Greene, South Carolina Quarterback Chris Smiley |
| Capital One | Georgia vs. Michigan State | January 1 st , 2009 | Georgia | Georgia Running Back Knowshon Moreno, MSU Running Back Javon Ringer |
| Gator | Clemson vs. Nebraska | January 1 st , 2009 | Clemson | Clemson Running Back C.J. Spiller, Nebraska Quarterback Joe Ganz |
| Rose | Southern Cal vs. Penn State | January 1 st , 2009 | Southern Cal | USC Running Back Stefan Johnson, PSU Quarterback Darryl Clark |
| Orange | Cincinnati vs. Virginia Tech | January 1 st , 2009 | Virginia Tech | UC Wide Receiver Marty Gilyard, VT Quarterback Tyrod Taylor |
| Cotton | Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss | January 2 nd , 2009 | Texas Tech | TTU Wide Receiver Michael Crabtree, Ole Miss Quarterback Jevan Snead |
| Liberty | East Carolina vs. Kentucky | January 2 nd , 2009 | East Carolina | ECU Quarterback Patrick Pinkney, UK Defensive End Jeremy Jarmon |
| Sugar | Alabama vs. Utah | January 2 nd , 2009 | Alabama | Bama Wide Receiver Julio Jones, Utah Quarterback Brian Johnson |
| International | Buffalo vs. UConn | January 3 rd , 2009 | UConn | Buffalo Quarterback Drew Willy, UConn Running Back Donald Brown |
| Fiesta | Texas vs. Ohio State | January 3 rd , 2009 | Texas | UT Quarterback Colt McCoy, OSU Quarterback Terrell Pryor |
| GMAC | Ball State vs. Tulsa | January 6 th , 2009 | Ball State | BSU Quarterback Nate Davis, Tulsa Quarterback David Johnson |
| BCS Title Game | Oklahoma vs. Florida | January 8 th , 2009 | Florida | OU Running Back DeMarco Murray, Florida Wide Receiver Percy Harvin |

Safety Note

A funny holiday reminder to stay safe

BY NAVAL SAFETY CENTER
Special to the Penny Press

This week, as we gear up for the holiday season by limbering up the credit card and loosening the belt a notch or two, we proudly present the Safety Funnies version of a timeless favorite.

On the first day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, a Risk-O-Matic in a pear tree (an not just the basic model but the new, portable Risk-O-Matic 2, with the choice of warning-light colors and the ability to download different sirens.

On the second day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, an unwillingness to ride on the back of a motorcycle not wearing protective gear en route to my own motorcycle (where I have my own helmet).

On the third day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, the ability to distinguish between a metal ladder and a blue plastic lawn chair when I need to climb up on the roof.

On the fourth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, the knowledge that driving from California to Arizona to Texas to Indiana and back to Arizona and California during holiday leave is pushing it (which puts me ahead of the lance corporal who almost did it).

On the fifth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, five extra minutes before any task during which to check the instructions and not say, "Heck, I never did it that way and it always seemed OK."

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me,

the realization that goggles and a face shield might be a bit uncomfortable, but an eyeful of drain cleaner or deck stripper is much, much worse.

On the seventh day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, positive knowledge that no matter how fast I can run, I will never be able to outrun the fireball that blossoms when someone throws a match into a pile of brush they just doused in gasoline.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, the realization that just because I can do something doesn't mean I should.

On the ninth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, an allergy to balconies when I'm three sheets to the wind (or one sheet, for that matter).

On the tenth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, the recognition that training is good and test-riding is bad when I'm considering the acquisition of an unfamiliar vehicle.

On the eleventh day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, a clear vision that a highway speed limit isn't a baseline from which to try to calculate how many extra mph's a state trooper might give you if

he's in a good mood, but rather a ceiling from which to slow down when it gets rainy, dark or foggy.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, the Funnies gave to me, buddies who understand their job is to be the voice of reason, not an audience for stupidity.

May you all continue to receive good things during this season and the coming year. An excellent gift is a personal mishap rate of zero, and you are the major factor in whether you receive it or not. Happy holidays!



Photo by MC3 Kat Corona

Pablo the Sailor, of USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) Media Department, gets in on the Christmas spirit, but resolves to stay safe for this holiday season.

Final Thoughts



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by MCSN Robert A. Robbins

Seaman Apprentice Christopher M. Moore of Deltona, Fla., scans a part in one of USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) storage rooms.

MONEY

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Sailors can also get family involved in money saving by starting a gift exchange event, such as a Secret Santa, or White Elephant game. These kinds of exchange games can be entertaining for the entire family during the holidays.

"Instead of everyone buying two or three \$10 presents for multiple family members, you can hold a gift exchange and only have to purchase, let's say, a \$25 present for one family member. It's a good way to save money and it's fun family, quality time," said Dignan.

A CFS is located in each department, but

no Sailor is required to talk to them about finances, unless applying for some special programs. CFSs can provide financial counseling to those who want it.

"I think every sailor should pay themselves first. They should devote 10 percent to some kind of savings account, like the Thrift Savings Plan, or something you don't touch. You work hard for your money and you have to reap some kind of benefit. One day you're going to get out of the Navy so you should have something," said Brown.

The Fleet and Family Support Center and the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society are also available for help with budgeting and finances.

Editor's Top 10

Top ten reasons to go to the Ship's Christmas Party.

10. You didn't get enough time with everyone while on deployment; why not celebrate the holidays with 2,000 of your closest friends?

9. The ship pretty much took over Tulalip. Aren't you the least bit curious to see if John Porter can pull it off?

8. After two weeks of ship food, a gourmet, catered dinner sounds heavenly.

7. With free child care, it's a chance for EVERYONE to get out for the night.

6. It's a great excuse to get all dressed up.

5. You can make a game out of trying to recognize people you know when they're not wearing coveralls.

4. There are some awesome prizes up for grabs.

3. Someone in the ship's chain of command will probably wear a hilarious holiday sweater. Do you really want to miss that?

2. Why not go? It's going to be awesome!

1. If you go, you get the next day off. Unless you're duty section...

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